

**CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007**

Council President Kelly Porter called the Public Session to order at 7:07 p.m.

Present: Council President Porter, Mayor Eugene W. Grant (8:13 p.m.)
Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Charl M. Jones,
Councilmember Brian K. Shivers, Councilmember Elenora Simms,
Councilmember Reveral L. Yeargin.

Excused: Councilmember John B. Morris (illness)

Staff: Sandra A. Yates, City Clerk

The invocation was given by Councilmember Yeargin

Agenda – It was moved by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by
Councilmember Jones to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

June 2007 Minutes – It was moved by Councilmember Higgs and seconded
by Councilmember Jones to approve the July 2007 minutes. The motion
carried.

Council President Porter recognized former Mayor Eugene F. Kennedy and former
Councilmembers Maxine Cobb and Thurman Jones.

PRESENTATIONS

MNCPPC – Sub-region Four Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment
Ms. Sonja M. Ewing, AICP, Planning Coordinator

Ms. Ewing reported that the plan is being updated because the master plans have
not been updated in a number of years. MNCPPC is looking for citizens to
participate in the conversation. Ms. Ewing distributed a sign-up sheet for meeting
notifications to stakeholders.

REPORTS

City President's Report – Kelly Porter, City Council President

Council President Porter stated that his written report regarding the recent Charter Amendment – Adopt a City Charter was available. He read a small portion of the report.

City Administrator's Report – Bryan G. Alston, City Administrator

The City Clerk read Mr. Alston's report in his absence.

- The City's Public Works department was awarded a \$1,500 grant from LGIT on OSHA compliance review.
- The City's LGIT liability has decreased resulting in a decrease in the City's insurance premiums.
- A new copier contract has been signed to upgrade the existing color and black & white copiers at a savings of \$1,400.00 per month.
- The two Public Works openings have been advertised.
- Operation Clean Sweep, held in Ward Two, was a success due to the work of City personnel with assistance from community service workers.
- M.O.N.A. was successful in obtaining two court awards.
- The City's Community Development Block Grant application is nearing completion. The City will also be working with the Seat Pleasant CDC on their grant application.
- The Finance Department is moving forward with transitioning more routine payments to electronic format.
- The SPPD is in dire need of vehicles. A report to the Council is forthcoming. Officer Katrina Davis recently completed D.A.R.E. training and will be working with students at Seat Pleasant Elementary School.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Earlette Tumor, Seat Pleasant MD. Her home has been attacked several times in 2 years. There was a random, drive by shooting at her home in July. She has yet to be contacted by SPPD regarding the incident. The bullet shell casings are still in the street.

Phillip Davis, Seat Pleasant MD. Recommended drug and alcohol testing for elected officials and all staff. He asked about the cost of an average home in Seat Pleasant. Council President Porter stated \$175-225k. Mr. Phillips said that his correspondences to the Mayor and City Administrator have not been acknowledged. Council President Porter stated that he has met with Mr. Davis. Councilmember Higgs stated that the day-to-day operations of the City are the responsibility of the City Administrator, not the Mayor or City Council.

Rogers Reynolds, Seat Pleasant MD. Concerns about speeding on 66th Avenue in the vicinity of Seat Pleasant Elementary School and drug activity. He thanked Councilmember Shivers for putting soil behind the shopping center.

Pamela Boone, Seat Pleasant MD. Thanked Councilmember Shivers for Operation Clean Sweep in Ward II. Thanked Mayor Grant for Mayor's Socials. Thanked Mayor Grant and Councilmembers Porter and Simms, Dollars for Scholars and SP/UM Health Partnership for supporting National Night Out in August. The CPAC is planning a neighborhood watch kick-off. Game night was held – small turnout, but fun was had by all in attendance. Reported on PGCPD District 3 meetings – use the County non-emergency number instead of 911 if you just need information. Ms. Boone encouraged citizens to contact her or Chief Taylor with concerns about the SPPD.

Jacquie Battle, Seat Pleasant MD. Thank Councilmember Higgs for the Ward I ice cream social. Street lighting needs to be improved 400 block of 70th Street @ Eads, 6000 block of SP Drive and 300 block of 69th Place. There are open air mechanics shops being operated in the alley. People are letting their dogs run free in the park near her house; they do not clean up after their animals. Signs need to be posted at the entrances. Waiting 10 years to get sidewalks on her street repaired. The City Administrator said that they were scheduled to be repaired. Thank Council President Porter for responding to July 9th public session comments.

Eugene Kennedy, Seat Pleasant. The City should reinstate activities for the youth in the community. The City used to have an after-school program, field trips, sports, etc. for the young people. The Recreation Council used to get funds from the City to hold events for the children. He asked the Council to fast-track services and funding for youth programs.

Maxine Cobb, Seat Pleasant MD. Operation Clean Sweep was a well done project. Thanked Ms. Pamela Boone for her work in the community. The family game night was not well attended, but fun for all who attended. Ms. Cobb said that she did not know that the Recreation Council no longer received support from the City. It used to be a line item in the City budget. Mayor Grant stated that the City will not fund one organization over another. He also stated that the City holds events that are not well attended, like the tree lighting ceremony. Mayor Grant informed Ms. Cobb that the event was in the newsletter and he would provide her with a copy of the newsletter.

Amanda Feggans, Seat Pleasant MD. Mrs. Feggans stated that there was a resolution of the City Council and a line item in the City budget to fund the Recreation Council for the purpose of holding certain events for the City. The Rec Council used its own funds for the Easter Egg Hunt and Thanksgiving dinner. When the new administration came in, she wrote a letter to the Mayor, all of the Councilmembers and the City Administrator to find out if the City wanted the Rec Council to continue doing events for the City. No one responded to the letter, except the City Administrator who said he would schedule a meeting. It was never held. The City has never communicated with the Rec Council.

Damon Sutton, Seat Pleasant MD. City trees are encroaching on his backyard. Large limbs have fallen into his yard. He and his family do not feel safe in their yard. He sent a letter to the Mayor and City Administrator and did not get a response. Mr. Sutton said that he is willing to share the cost of trimming back the branches. Mayor Grant stated that there is a potential liability issue that needs to be investigated by the City. Mr. Sutton said that he and Councilmember Yeargin have communicated about the trees, but the problem has not been addressed. Councilmember Yeargin said that he would contact Public Works about the issue.

Janice Fisher, Seat Pleasant MD. Seat Pleasant Dollars for Scholars gave out 3, \$1000 scholarships in August. She had to use her personal funds to cover some of the 3rd scholarship. DPDS only has a few dollars left in its treasury and wants to hold a fundraiser on December 21st at the Feggans Center. She asked the Council

to waive the security fee. Council President Porter asked that the request be submitted to the Council in writing.

Thurman Jones, Seat Pleasant MD. Expressed his support for the work of the Recreation Council; they packed the house for years. He suggested that the Council meet with representatives from the Rec Council to work out an agreement. Youth programs need to be returned to the City. He said that the City needs to reach out to the Hispanic community to educate them about our laws and regulations. For example, vehicles need to be registered in the state in which one lives.

LaTasha Gatling, Seat Pleasant MD. Safety is a common denominator and funding was cut to the police department and fire department. She encouraged everyone including the City Council to support CPAC and their activities. Code Enforcement is a universal issue. Ms. Gatling said that she had a Park & Planning contact regarding trees if anyone needed the information.

Collette Richardson, Seat Pleasant MD. She has been volunteering for Mayor Grant and thinks that he is a great mayor. The City paid for streets to be repaired and then Washington Gas came through and tore them up again. The work should have been better coordinated. Parking and drugs are issues on her street. There need to be more activities for children.

Carl Sirju, Seat Pleasant MD. Loud trucks are driving through the community starting as early as 3 o'clock in the morning due to utility construction on the streets. The noise is terrible. He requested that the trucks be allowed to exit via the alley to MLK Highway. Mayor Grant stated that using that route might be a public safety issue. Council President Porter stated that the issue can be investigated by the City Administrator and police department.

Mayor Grant:

- Mayor Grant stated that giving one organization money over another might cause liability for the City. He said the Councilmember Shivers developed a plan for organizations to obtain grants from the City and no one applied. Mrs. Feggans said that the information was never given to the Recreation Council. Mayor Grant added that an offer was extended to the Rec Council for a meeting. Mr. Thurman Jones asked how information about the grant program was disseminated if people need funding and no one applied for it. He recommended that the parties meet to work out an agreement.

- Mayor Grant stated that the Mayor's Tuesday Socials were geared towards energy and utility issues. He thanked Washington Gas, WSSC and PEPCO for their support.
- Mayor Grant encouraged everyone to attend upcoming hearings regarding the relocations of SPVFD services to the new fire station on Hill Road.
- Attended the Conference for Creative Cities. DC Mayor Adrian Fenty is creating 10 creative zones. Seat Pleasant should establish creative zones to market the City in light of the fact that the predicted state budget deficit will result in the reduction of funds to the City.

Former Mayor Eugene Kennedy announced that longtime resident Mrs. Hattie Richburg was discovered deceased in her home due to the diligence of a postal carrier.

Council President Election. Councilmember Yeargin and Councilmember Simms gave a brief speech about their qualifications for council president. The election was held by ballot. Council President Simms was declared the new council president as of October 2007.

It was moved by Councilmember Higgs and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Submitted,

Sandra A. Yates, City Clerk